**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**
**WATERWAY GENERAL PERMIT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT STRUCTURES**

**Permittee:** The General Public in Wisconsin

**Permit #:** WDNR-GP6-2026

**Issuing Office:** Waterways Program
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (Department)

**Issuance Date:** May 7, 2026

**Expiration Date:** May 6, 2031

## GENERAL PERMIT AUTHORIZATIONS

In compliance with the provision(s) of ss. 30.12(1) and (2m), Wis. Stats., no person may place any structure upon the bed of any navigable water unless an individual or a general permit has been issued under this section or authorization has been granted by the legislature through an exemption.

The Department has authority to issue general permits under s. 30.206(1)(am), Wis. Stats., that authorize any person in the State of Wisconsin to perform work in accordance with the terms and conditions of the general permit specified below after satisfying all applicable permit terms and conditions. Please refer to the following sections of this permit for the specific eligibility standards, application requirements, certification requirements and responsibilities, conditions, findings of fact, conclusions of law, and definitions required by WDNR-GP6-2026.

> **Note:** Coverage under this permit authorizes the permittee to undertake specified activity/activities in compliance with the above statutes and the terms of this permit but does not authorize a permittee to undertake any activity prohibited by other applicable federal, state, or local law.
>
> **Note:** WDNR-GP6-2026 does not apply to tribal activities located within the exterior boundary of a reservation.
>
> **Note:** Section 30.12(2m), Wis. Stats., allows the Department to require that an individual permit or general permit be obtained in lieu of an exemption for activities at certain sites. Work performed in ASNRI designated waters or at a site where the Department requires a permit under s. 30.12(2m), Wis. Stats., may be authorized by this general permit.

## OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS NECESSARY

WDNR-GP6-2026 authorizations are subject to all applicable terms and conditions specified in this permit. However, WDNR-GP6-2026 authorizations do not supersede any other local, state, tribal, or federal authority so additional permits may be required before any work may proceed. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act s. 404 permits are required for discharges of dredged or fill material to Waters of the United States, including discharges to federal wetlands. Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10 permits are required for work including the placement of structures and dredging in navigable waters of the United States. Floodplain permits (ch. NR 116, Wis. Adm. Code) or other local zoning permits may be required. Please contact your local zoning authority to determine what local permits are required; county zoning administrator contact information is available at https://www.wccadm.com/wcca-contacts.

Additional waterway, dam, and wetland permitting may also be necessary depending on the project size, scope and purpose and need. Please visit https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/, keyword "water permitting" for more information.

This permit does not supersede any applicable easement(s) within the project boundary. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the proposed project does not conflict with existing land use or development restrictions, including easements, applicable to the property.

This permit also does not authorize flooding or impeding drainage of the adjacent properties or upstream properties. It is the responsibility of the applicant to secure any necessary easements or other permissions from affected landowner(s).

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

WDNR-GP6-2026 applies to the placement and maintenance of habitat structures within navigable a waterbody. Structures placed in navigable waters are regulated under ss. 30.12(1), (2m), (3), and (3m), Wis. Stats., and supporting administrative rules promulgated by the Department.

The following activities are eligible for coverage under WDNR-GP6-2026:

- Placement of wildlife habitat structures below the ordinary high-water mark (OHWM) of a navigable waterbody.
- Placement of fish habitat structures below the ordinary high-water mark (OHWM) of a navigable waterbody.
- Placement of net pen structures below the ordinary high-water mark (OHWM) of a

navigable waterbody.
- Addition of new habitat structure locations to projects already authorized or adding new habitat structure locations of a single riparian property.

Any person that intends to do any of the following activities as part of this general permit must comply with all applicable provisions therein:

- Construct, place, or maintain a structure under this permit at a site where the Department requires a permit under s. 30.12(2m), Wis. Stats.

## GENERAL PERMIT COVERAGE

Unless notified by the Department to the contrary, the effective date of coverage under this general permit is 30 calendar days after a complete application package has been received by the Department at the office designated in the permit application materials provided by the Department. **WDNR-GP6-2026 permit coverage is valid for 5 years after the date the coverage is granted by the Department.** If the project is not completed within 5 years after the date of coverage another application must be submitted. If the project scope changes within the valid period of the permit coverage the Department may require a new application or modify coverage if the project continues to meet all eligibility criteria. The 5-year timeline is based on the date coverage is granted by the Department, not the expiration date of **WDNR-GP6-2026.**

State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
For the Secretary

May 7, 2026

Benjamin Callan – Director
Waterways Program

Date

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### WDNR-GP6-2026 TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The following sections describe the general permit authorization procedures implemented by the Department in WDNR-GP6-2026. Projects must meet all the terms and conditions of this permit to be eligible for coverage under WDNR-GP6-2026.

> **Note:** The term "you" and its derivatives, as used in this general permit, means the permittee, which is the landowner. The term "the Department" or "this office" refers to the appropriate Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Service Center, Region Office or Central Office headquarters having jurisdiction over the authorized activity or the appropriate official of that office acting under the authority of the Secretary of the Department.
>
> **Note:** Projects that do not meet all standards below are not eligible for this general permit and are therefore excluded from coverage under WDNR-GP6-2026. In these cases,

persons may apply for an Individual Permit as outlined in s. 30.208, Wis. Stats. The Department also has authority under s. 30.206(3r), Wis. Stats., to require an individual permit in lieu of a general permit if the Department has determined that conditions specific to the site require additional restrictions on the activity in order to prevent significant adverse impacts to the public rights and interest, environmental pollution as defined in s. 299.01(4), Wis. Stats., or material injury to the riparian rights of any riparian owner.

**Note:** Projects that may impact tribal lands or a legally recognized treaty right may need additional coordination.

## SECTION 1. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

### A. GENERAL CRITERIA

1. The project purpose is to place a wildlife nesting or fish habitat structure (referred to as "habitat structure/s") solely for the purpose of improving fish and wildlife habitat or fish stocking.
2. The habitat structure may be located in an *area of special natural resource interest* (ASNRI), or in a *public rights feature* (PRF) as described in s. NR 1.06, Wis. Adm. Code, or at a site where the Department requires a permit under s. 30.12(2m), Wis. Stats.
3. The applicant or co-applicant is the riparian landowner.
4. The habitat structure must be placed entirely within the riparian zone as defined in s. 30.01(5r), Wis. Stats., and determined by one of the methods outlined in supporting administrative code promulgated by the Department. Fish sticks, tree drops, and fish cribs may be placed waterward of the line of navigation outside of the riparian zone. See activity specific eligibility criteria in sections 1. C. and 1. D.
5. The riparian owner or the person who places a habitat structure under coverage of this General Permit must obtain and submit with the application a written approval from the local Department Fisheries Biologist. See contacts at https://dnr.wisconsin.gov, keyword "fisheries biologists".
6. To minimize adverse impacts on fish movement, fish spawning, and egg incubation periods, in-water work may not occur during any of the following time periods unless timing restrictions have been waived by the department:
    a. September 15th through May 15th for all trout streams identified on DNR published maps. **Note:** To determine if a waterway is a trout stream, you may use the department trout stream maps at https://dnr.wisconsin.gov, keyword "trout stream maps."
    b. September 15th through June 15th on all Great Lakes tributaries upstream to the first dam or barrier.
    c. November 1st through June 15th for Lake Michigan waters surrounding Door County, including Green Bay and all harbors and bays.
    d. September 15th through July 1st for Lake Superior waters surrounding Douglas County, including St. Louis River and all harbors and bays.

e. March 1st through June 15th for all other waters.

**Note**: The local Department Fisheries Biologist may waive or modify timing restrictions in writing. To request waiver or modification of fish spawning timing restrictions for your project, please include a request in the narrative portion of your permit application.

7. Live, living, or growing aquatic plants may not be removed unless the removal is exempt under s. 23.24 (4), Wis. Stats., or complies with the provisions for waiver of the permit requirement under s. NR 109.06, Wis. Adm. Code.
8. Dredging up to but not exceeding 2 cubic yards may be associated with the placement of a habitat structure, pursuant to s. 30.20(1g)(b)1, Wis. Stats.
9. A deposit of sand, gravel, or stone under s. 30.12(1g)(a), Wis. Stats., may be associated with the placement of a habitat structure provided the deposit is limited to the area immediately underneath or within one foot of the structure and is less than 2 cubic yards.
10. Construction shall be accomplished in such a manner as to minimize erosion and siltation into surface waters and wetlands. All erosion and sediment control measures shall meet or exceed the applicable performance standards listed under subchapter III of ch. NR 151, Wis. Adm. Code. Technical standards to implement the performance standards can be viewed at https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/, keyword “stormwater technical standard”.
11. No activity is authorized which is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species or a species proposed for such designation, as identified under the Federal Endangered Species Act and/or State law or which is likely to destroy or adversely modify the critical habitat of a species as identified under the Federal Endangered Species Act.
12. The activity shall not result in significant adverse impacts to fishery spawning habitat, including obstruction of fish passage, or adversely affect bird breeding areas or substantially disrupts the movement of species that normally migrate from open water to upland or vice versa (i.e., amphibians, reptiles, and mammals) as determined by the Department.
13. The activity will not result in adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources and will comply with s. 44.40, Wis. Stats., as determined by the Department.
14. Follow the most recent Department approved washing and disinfection protocols and Department approved best management practices to avoid the spread of invasive species as outlined in ch. NR 40, Wis. Adm. Code. These protocols and practices can be found online at https://dnr.wi.gov/, keyword “invasive species BMPs”.
15. The project will not occur in a mapped floodplain (official Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or local zoning map), or if the project is located in a regulated floodplain, the applicant has certified that they are working to or have obtained applicable floodplain permits or approvals from the local zoning authority.
16. This permit does not authorize any impacts to wetland.

**Note:** This does not preclude eligibility of waterway exemptions or eligibility of other general or individual permits. Wetland regulatory information is available dnr.wisconsin.gov keyword "wetland permit".

17. The project does not cause significant adverse impacts to a cold-water community, as described in ch. NR 102, Wis. Adm. Code.
18. The discharge will cause only minimal adverse environmental effects.
19. Any excavated material shall not be temporarily or permanently placed in a wetland, floodplain or below the o*rdinary high-water mark* (OHWM) of a navigable waterway without regulatory approvals. All excavated materials shall be disposed of in an upland location.
20. The project may not cause significant adverse impacts to wetland water quality standards, as defined in s. NR 103.03, Wis. Adm. Code, including (but not limited to) the flow of groundwater through a wetland and water level elevations within wetlands.

## B. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR WILDLIFE NESTING STRUCTURES

**In addition to the general standards in Section 1A, the following standards apply to all wildlife nesting structures.**

1. The surface area of a nesting structure may not exceed 25 square feet (ex: 5ft by 5ft).

2. The nesting structure shall be designed and constructed of unpainted wood or of materials that are non−gloss earthtone colors that blend into a natural shoreline setting during leaf−on condition.

## C. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR FISH STICKS AND TREE DROPS

**In addition to the general standards in Section 1A, the following standards apply to all fish stick and tree drops.**

**Note:** Fish Sticks, as defined in Section 7, means: "a large woody habitat structure that utilizes whole trees that may be grouped or attached together or are not attached together. Fish Stick structures are attached to the shore or anchored to the bed or bank and are partially or fully submerged near the shoreline of a lake".

1. The fish stick or tree drop project may only be placed on any of the following:
    a. Lake,
    b. Flowage,
    c. Rivers listed in s. NR 102.06(3)(a), Wis. Adm. Code, or
    d. Rivers over 250 feet in width.

    **Note**: The demarcation separating a river and a flowage is spatially defined using the identify tool on the Department's Surface Water Data Viewer which can be found at http://dnr.wi.gov, keyword “surface water data viewer”.
2. For a fish stick or tree drop that requires placement outside of the riparian zone, the applicant must be a riparian, or the application must include permission from a co-applicant riparian landowner.
3. If possible, the fish stick or tree drop shall not be located within an area narrower than 250

feet in width where boating activity is confined. If the structures are placed in an area narrower than 250 feet in width where boating activity is confined, the structure must allow for 150 feet open water navigation from the end of the structure to the line of navigation associated with the opposing shoreline (3 ft. water depth) as defined in supporting administrative code promulgated by the Department.

4. The fish stick or tree drop must be placed at least 100 feet away from all of the following:
    a. A bridge.
    b. A municipal or commercial marina.
    c. A designated swimming area that is open to the public that is marked by buoys, ropes, or postings along the shore. This includes publicly accessible swimming areas on private land.
    d. A publicly accessible boat ramp and piers associated with boat ramps that are solely for the purpose of loading and unloading watercraft.
    e. A designated carry-in only watercraft access point.
5. A portion of a tree drop must be placed and anchored within 20 feet from the bank toe, or in water depths less than or equal to 3 feet based on normal summertime lows.

    **Note:** “Bank toe” as defined in Section 7 means, "the break in slope at the foot of a bank where it meets the bed."
6. There are no restrictions on the placement distance of a fish stick or tree drop landward of the bank toe.

    **Note:** Any placement of structure above the OHWM may be regulated under local shoreland zoning ordinances. The applicant is responsible for ensuring that the project complies with any local zoning requirements.
7. Installation of fish sticks or tree drops shall use live or recently live trees, harvested within one year of placement.

    **Note**: “Recently live” is defined by the presence of some buds or leaves on the tree when cut. Rotten, long dead, or hollow trees are not suitable due to their floating nature.
8. If whole trees are grouped, attached, or anchored together, the resulting fish stick or tree drop must include a minimum of 1 tree with a basal diameter of at least 8 inches. If a single tree is used its basal diameter must be at least 8 inches.
9. The removal of living trees above the OHWM that are harvested within 35 feet of a navigable waterway may be subject to local zoning ordinances which place restrictions on cutting trees in the shoreland zone. The applicant is responsible for ensuring that their project is in compliance with any local zoning requirements.

## D. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR FISH CRIBS

**In addition to the general standards in Section 1A, the following standards apply to all fish cribs.**

1. The fish crib shall have a minimum of 5 feet of water over the top of the structure (at the

structure's tallest point). The depth and clearance of the fish cribs must be based on the normal lowest water level condition during a calendar year.

2. For a fish crib that requires placement outside of the riparian zone, the applicant must be a riparian, or the application must include permission from a co-applicant riparian.
3. The fish crib must be constructed of biological materials except for any fastening and anchoring devices.
4. The maximum dimensions of the fish crib must be 8 feet tall by 8 feet long by 8 feet wide.
5. The fish crib shall not be placed within 100 feet of swimming beaches or swim rafts.
6. The fish crib shall not be located in soft unconsolidated sediment or muck greater than 12 inches deep.
7. The fish crib shall not be placed in locations where the contour of the waterway bed exceeds steeper than 1V:4H slope (one-foot vertical rise to 4-foot horizontal run).
8. The fish crib must be adequately anchored to prevent movement.

## E. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR WALLEYE AND SAUGER SPAWNING REEFS

**In addition to the general standards in Section 1A, the following standards apply to all walleye and sauger spawning reefs.**

1. The waterbody has a history of naturally reproducing walleye or sauger as evidenced by at least 2 years of young-of-year catch rates greater than or equal to1 fish per shoreline mile during non-stocked years.
2. The reef shall be constructed of an aggregate of clean (free of fines), uncrushed gravel and rock between 2 to 8 inches in diameter, with approximately 30% of the gravel and rock between 2 to 4 inches in diameter and approximately 70% of the gravel and rock between 4 to 8 inches in diameter.
3. The reef must be placed in a linear form parallel to the shore.
4. The reef must be no longer than 100 feet along the shoreline and no wider than 30 feet perpendicular to shore and may not be placed more than 100 feet from shore.
5. The reef must be placed where water depths range from 0 to 5 feet.
6. The reef may not be placed in locations where the contour of the waterway bed exceeds a 1V:4H slope (one-foot vertical rise to 4-foot horizontal run).
7. To minimize navigation hazards, the reef shall be placed within 100 feet of shore if it is in water less than 5 feet deep and on a waterway bed with a contour slope less steep than 1V:10H (1ft vertical rise to 10ft horizontal run).
8. The reef must not be placed in locations with a bottom substrate of less than 90% clean sand.

   **Note:** This condition prevents spawning reefs placement in locations that already provide natural walleye spawning habitat. Walleye or sauger spawning reefs require moderate wave action to keep substrate clean of algae and adequately circulate water

for incubating eggs. Natural walleye or sauger spawning reefs generally consist of substrate materials 2-8 inches in diameter with rounded edges located in shallow water adjacent to gently sloping shorelines. A predominately sand substrate does not provide natural walleye spawning habitat because sand grains are too small and wave action that allows a 90% sand substrate to accumulate is too gentle to adequately circulate water for incubating walleye eggs.

9. The applicant shall provide written notice to the president or chair of any lake association, property owners association or Lake District within 30 days after placement of the spawning reef. The notice must include a description of the spawning reef and a lake map identifying the exact location of the reef. The person placing the reef is also responsible for posting a laminated copy of the same map, within 30 days after placement, at all public boat landings on the waterbody where the reef is located and ensuring that the map remains posted for at least one year.

## F. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR WING DEFLECTORS

**In addition to the general standards in Section 1A, the following standards apply to all wing deflectors.**

1. Design and placement of wing deflectors must follow the recommendations in Guidelines for Management of Trout Stream Habitat in Wisconsin by Ray J. White and Oscar M. Brynildson.

   **Note:** Copies of these publications may be downloaded at http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/EcoNatRes.DNRBull39. Hard copies can be requested by contacting your public library or local department fisheries biologist at https://dnr.wi.gov, keyword “fisheries biologists.”

2. The wing deflector shall not extend more than 25% across the stream width as measured from OHWM to OHWM.

## G. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR HALF LOGS

**In addition to the general standards in Section 1A, the following standards apply to all half logs.**

1. The half-log shall be constructed from green logs with a minimum diameter of 10 inches. Spacers may not exceed 12 inches in height.
2. The half-log shall be placed where the bottom substrate composition consists of sand and/or gravel.
3. The half-log may not be placed in water deeper than 5 feet as measured from the OHWM.
4. A half-log placed in lakes and flowages may not be located more than 100 feet from shore or within 100 feet of a swim raft.

## H. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR NET PENS

**In addition to the general standards in Section 1A, the following standards apply to**

**all net pens.**

1. The project purpose is the placement of a net pen(s) for holding or rearing fish for noncommercial purposes.
2. A cooperative fish rearing agreement with the department is required before the placement of fish in any public waterway. This includes the placement of fish in a net pen(s) authorized under this general permit. For information on how to obtain a cooperative fish rearing agreement, contact your fisheries biologist at https://dnr.wi.gov, keyword “fisheries biologists.”
3. The net pen may only be placed in Great Lakes waterbodies or tributaries of Great Lakes waterbodies.
4. The net pen may not be located within a public rights feature as described s. NR 1.06, Wis. Adm. Code.
5. There is no limit to the number of times that a person may place a net pen in a Great Lakes water body or a tributary of a Great Lakes water body under the authority of this general permit.
6. A *Wisconsin Pollution Discharge Elimination System* (WPDES) permit is required if the holding or rearing of fish in a net pen authorized under this general permit meets the criteria for a concentrated aquatic production facility under 40 C.F.R. 122.24.
7. The applicant is the riparian owner. If the applicant is not the riparian owner and the project location is waterward of the line of navigation (3 ft. water depth), the applicant has properly notified the riparian owner of the intention to place a net pen for holding or rearing fish.
8. The applicant is the riparian owner. If the applicant is not the riparian owner and the project location is landward of the line of navigation (3 ft. water depth) in the riparian zone, the applicant has obtained permission from the riparian owner to place a net pen for holding or rearing fish.
9. If the water is a tributary to a Great Lakes waterbody, the applicant has obtained permission of the bed owner (who may be the riparian owner) to place a net pen(s) for holding or rearing fish.
10. A net pen for the purpose of holding or rearing fish for noncommercial purposes may be placed for a period not to exceed 8 weeks.
11. The Department must be present when fish are being placed into a net pen.
12. The fish held or reared in the net pen must be stocked by the Department or by a person who is in compliance with s. 29.736, Wis. Stats.
13. The fish held or reared in the net pen must be released by the Department or by a person who is in compliance with s. 29.736, Wis. Stats., into the same body of water in which the net pen is placed.
14. If possible, a net pen shall not be placed at a location where the area for boating traffic and open water navigation is narrower than 250 ft. A net pen placed in such a location must allow an area for boating traffic and open water navigation at least 150 ft. wide between the waterward side of the net pen and the opposite shore's line of navigation (3 ft. water depth

as defined in s. 30.01(3c), Wis. Stats.).

15. The structure must be placed at least 100 feet away from all of the following:
    a. A bridge.
    b. A designated swimming area open to the public and marked by buoys, ropes, or postings along the shore. This includes publicly accessible swimming areas on private land.
    c. A designated carry-in only watercraft access point.
    d. A swim raft.
16. Net pens must be adequately marked with buoys and reflectors or any other visual warning mechanism that is highly visible and that is reflectorized, fluorescent, or lighted.
17. Net pens must be adequately secured or anchored to prevent movement.
18. The applicant shall provide written notice to the harbor master or equivalent representative within the local municipality prior to placing a net pen. The notice must include a description of the net pen and a map identifying the exact location.
19. A net pen must be placed in a manner that prevents sediment from accreting updrift or eroding down-drift of the net pen or being transported away from the net pen to the maximum extent practicable.
20. A net pen must be placed in a manner that prevents the collection, removal, or dispersal of sediment away from the project site to the maximum extent practicable.

## I. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR ADDING NEW STRUCTURE LOCATIONS FOR FISH STICKS, TREE DROPS, FISH CRIBS, OR HALF-LOGS ON A SINGLE RIPARIAN PROPERTY

**An applicant may place structures authorized under this general permit on additional sites not originally specified in the project plan if all of the following conditions apply:**

1. The additional site location complies with all of the applicable eligibility standards in 1A and any other applicable sections of the general permit.
2. The original applicant will place and maintain the additional structure(s) within their riparian zone.
3. The Fisheries Biologist or Water Management Specialist approves the additional site location as a beneficial location to improve fish or wildlife habitat.
4. An additional permit fee is not required to place fish sticks, tree drops, or half logs at additional locations under an existing general permit coverage. A person seeking to place additional structures under an existing permit coverage must provide to the Department an informal request containing all the following:
    a. The docket or identification number of the initial general permit coverage to which you seek to add new locations.

b. First and last name of applicant seeking coverage of new locations.

c. Applicant's contact information, including but not limited to, street address, city, state, zip code, telephone, and e-mail.

d. Project diagram that shows all the following:

1. The location of the project relative to the OHWM and the bank toe.

2. The location of silt fences or any other sediment control devices.

3. A description of structure(s) to be placed.

5. A description of materials and equipment to be used for the placement of the habitat structure, including the location of the live trees to be used and the purpose and need for the placement.

6. Additional structures shall not be placed after the expiration date of this general permit.

## J. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR ADDING NEW STRUCTURE LOCATIONS FOR FISH STICKS, TREE DROPS, OR HALF-LOGS FOR LAKE OR FLOWAGE-WIDE PROJECTS ALREADY AUTHORIZED UNDER THIS PERMIT

To facilitate lake-wide management efforts under the public trust that will cumulatively restore and enhance fish habitat in the near-shore littoral zone area and result in healthy fish populations, the standards contained in this subsection allow for the option of adding new structure sites to fish sticks, tree drops, or half logs projects on the same waterbody already granted coverage under this general permit with no additional permit fees. Structures must meet all applicable eligibility criteria in Section 1. All permit conditions apply in Section 4.

Contact your local Lake District or lake group or use the Permits & Determinations layer at https://dnr.wisconsin.gov, keyword “surface water data viewer” to search for previous permits.

1. An applicant who applies for coverage under this general permit for the placement of fish sticks, tree drops, or half logs must indicate in the initial application whether the applicant seeks permit coverage that allows new structure sites that meet the general permit standards to be added and afforded coverage under the same general permit at a later date.

2. An additional permit fee is not required to place fish sticks, tree drops, or half logs at additional locations under an existing general permit coverage where the initial applicant was granted permit coverage for additional locations. A person seeking to place additional structures under an existing permit coverage must provide to the Department a request containing all the following:

a. The docket or identification number of the initial general permit coverage to which you seek to add new locations.

b. First and last name of applicant seeking coverage of new locations.

c. Applicant's contact information, including but not limited to, street address, city, state, zip code, telephone, and e-mail.

d. A copy of the deed or similar proof of ownership of the site where the activity will occur. If you do not own the site, also include proof of any notice(s) and permission(s) required by Section 1.A Criteria 3 and 4 of this General Permit.

e. Project diagram that shows all the following:

   i. The location of the project relative to the OHWM and the bank toe.

   ii. The location of silt fences or any other sediment control devices.

   iii. A description of materials and equipment to be used for the placement of the habitat structure, including the location of the live trees to be used and the purpose and need for the placement.

f. Maps of the project site that include all the following:

   i. Property lines for the property where the project will occur including identification of the riparian zone area from the OHWM to the line of navigation.

   ii. The location of the proposed habitat structure.

g. Photographs that represent existing site conditions where the project will occur.

h. Signature. The signature on any cover letter submitted for the purpose of applying to be covered under existing general permit coverage will certify that the applicant meets the requirements under Section 2 of this general permit.

## K. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR ROOT WADS

1. A root wad shall only be placed on a stream reach with a gradient slope of 5 percent or less.
2. The size of root wad shall be commensurate with the width of the stream and shall not extend more than 25 percent of the stream width. Furthermore, root wads shall not create an obstruction to or impede navigation.
3. Root wads shall be placed with the root wad fan on a 45-to-60-degree angle relative to the current pointing upstream to prevent excessive erosion.
4. Root wads shall be anchored in a manner to keep from floating downstream and not cause erosion issues.

   **Note:** Duckbill anchoring and ground anchoring are the most common methods of anchoring. Please see NRCS National Engineering Handbook, Part 654 Stream Restoration Design, Technical Supplement 14E, Use and Design of Soil Anchors for reference.

5. Root Wads shall consist of the natural tree trunk with root ball intact (no artificial materials).
6. Root wads shall be placed at least 100 feet or greater from all the following:

   a. A municipal or commercial marina.

   b. A designated swimming area that is open to the public that is marked by buoys, ropes, or postings along the shore, including a publicly accessible swimming area on

private land.

c. A publicly accessible boat ramp and any pier associated with the boat ramp that is solely for the purpose of loading and unloading watercraft.

d. A designated carry-in only watercraft access point.

## L. ELIGIBLIITY CRITERIA FOR BOULDER PLACEMENT

1. Boulders shall be greater than 10 inches in size. The size of the boulders shall be proportional with the size of the stream.
2. The boulder placement shall only be installed in wadeable streams at least 10 feet in width as measured at bankfull width.

   **Note**: “Wadeable” streams are streams, creeks and small rivers that are shallow enough to be sampled using methods that involve wading into the water. They typically include waters classified as 1st through 4th order (and sometimes 5th) in the Strahler Stream Order classification system (based on the number of tributaries upstream).
3. Three to seven boulders may be included in a boulder cluster and shall consist of natural rock of similar size.

   **Note:** A spacing distance of 6 inches to 3 feet between each boulder is recommended.
4. Each boulder cluster shall be spaced 12 to 15 feet apart.
5. The boulder placement shall be isolated in the stream cross section and profile to prevent a backwater effect that could alter the bankfull discharge elevation or create upstream sedimentation of aquatic habitat.
6. The boulder placement shall not take up more than 30 percent of stream width, as measured at bankfull width, and shall not be placed in the line of navigation.
7. The boulder placement shall not be placed at the head of a riffle and shall be placed to avoid additional flow into unstable bank areas that may result in increased bank erosion.

   **Note:** Habitat performance may differ over time due to finer particle substrates with boulders getting covered.

## SECTION 2. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. After you have carefully confirmed the proposed activity meets all the terms and conditions of this permit you must submit a complete application package to the Department as outlined in item 6 below. Pursuant to s. 30.206(3), Wis. Stats., the complete application package should be received a minimum of 30 calendar days before the desired project start date. Permit application materials can be found and submitted online at https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/, keyword “water permit”.
2. Unless notified by the Department to the contrary, the effective date of coverage under this

permit is 30 calendar days after the Department receives a complete application package.

3. The Department has one opportunity to request that you provide additional information necessary to verify compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit. If additional information is needed, the Department will notify you within 30 calendar days after receiving your application package. If the Department makes a request for additional information, the 30-day period is paused on the date the person applying for authorization receives the request for additional information. The clock remains paused until the date that the Department receives the information at the designated Department office, at which point the clock resumes from the point it was initially stopped.
4. As provided under s. 30, Wis. Stats., the Department may determine the project is not eligible for this general permit and require the project be reviewed through the individual permit process outlined in s. 30, Wis. Stats., If the Department determines your project is not eligible for this permit, you will be notified within 30 calendar days after your complete application package is received by Department.
5. A complete application package must include all of the following information:
    a. Complete and Signed Application Form certifying project meets the terms and conditions of WDNR-GP6-2026. This form can be found at https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/, keyword “water permit”.
    b. Permit fees as shown on the fee sheet at https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/, keyword “Waterway Permit Fee” except as follows: Waterway projects authorized under ch. 30, Wis. Stats., funded in whole or in part by a state or federal agency are exempt from permit fees under s. 30.28(3), Wis. Stats.
    c. A copy of the deed or similar proof of ownership of the site where the activity will occur.
    d. A signed permit checklist that confirms the applicant understands the eligibility standards specified in Section 1.
    e. Project plans that include final project design and construction including a project diagram that shows all of the following:
        - The methods, materials, and equipment that will be used to carry out the project.
        - The location and type of temporary and permanent silt fences or any other sediment/erosion control devices.
        - Top, side, and cross section plan profiles with appropriate measurements for the proposed project.
        - The construction schedule and sequence of work.
        - Area impacted for projects that impact waterways.
        - Maps of the project site with information that includes the most recent Soil Survey map, WI Wetland Inventory map, topographic map, floodplain information, and aerial photographs. All maps must show basic map elements (e.g., scale) and clear directions to the project site with project and property boundaries clearly labeled. The aerial photo shall also show the locations of all

proposed wetland fill or discharge clearly labeled, if applicable.

- Current photographs that represent existing site conditions where the project will occur. Photos must show a clear and unobstructed view of the waterway and/or wetlands within the project area. (i.e., not covered in snow/ice/thick vegetation, etc.)

f. Documentation verifying the project will not result in an adverse impact to federal or state cultural/historical resources.

g. Documentation verifying the project will not result in an adverse impact to federal or state threatened/endangered resources. Documentation options include:

1. An ER Review Verification Form showing that the project is covered by the Broad Incidental Take Permit for no/low impact activities and therefore does not require a review.
2. An ER Preliminary Assessment from the NHI Public Portal stating that no further actions are necessary or that further actions are recommended. The NHI Public Portal is located at https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/, keyword “NHI public portal”.
3. If the ER Preliminary Assessment from the NHI Public Portal shows that "further actions are required" then submit a Department **or** Certified ER Review letter. The request form for an ER Review letter and a list of Certified Reviewers is located at https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/, keywords “ER review request.

**Note:** A review for state threatened/endangered resources is completed by the Department for all applications submitted in the ePermitting system.

## SECTION 3. CERTIFICATION & RESPONSIBILITIES

You certify and agree that upon submittal of a complete application package to Department, the wetland project will be conducted in compliance with all the terms and conditions of WDNR-GP6-2026.

## SECTION 4. GENERAL PERMIT CONDITIONS

The applicant agrees to comply with the following conditions:

1. Application. You shall submit a complete application package to the Department as outlined in the application materials and application requirements section of this permit. If requested, within a reasonable timeframe, you shall furnish the Department any information it needs to verify compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit.
2. Certification. Acceptance of coverage under general permit WDNR-GP6-2026 and efforts to begin work on the activities authorized by this general permit signifies that you have certified the project meets all eligibility standards outlined above and that you have read, understood, and agreed to follow all terms and conditions of this general permit.

3. Reliance on Applicant's Data. The determination by this office that a confirmation of authorization is not contrary to wetland water quality standards will be based upon the information provided by the applicant and any other information required by the Department.
4. Project Plans. This permit does not authorize any work other than what is specifically described in the notification package and plans submitted to the Department and is certified by you to comply with the terms and conditions of WDNR-GP6-2026.
5. Expiration. The time limit for completing an activity authorized by the provisions of WDNR-GP6-2026 ends 5 years after the date on which the activity is considered to be authorized under WDNR-GP6-2026 or until the activity is completed, whichever occurs first, regardless of whether WDNR-GP6-2026 expired before the activity is completed. The Department's use of general permit WDNR-GP6-2026 established under s. 30.206, Wis. Stats., expires on May 6, 2031.
6. Written authorization for modification of scope. Any modification to the waterway impacts authorized under this general permit must be approved by the Department in writing to ensure that the project continues to meet the general permit eligibility in section 1. Separate permitting is necessary if the modified project scope no longer meets general permit eligibility.
7. Authorization Distribution. You must supply a copy of the permit coverage authorization to every contractor working on the project.
8. Project Start. You shall notify the Department using the information provided on the confirmation of coverage letter you receive before starting any activity and again not more than 5 days after each activity is completed.
9. Permit Posting. You must post a copy of this permit coverage letter at a conspicuous location on the project site before beginning the permitted activity. The copy of the permit coverage letter must remain posted at that location until at least five days after the area where the activity took place is stabilized. You must also keep a copy of the permit coverage letter and the approved plan available at the project site at all times until the project is complete.
10. Permit Compliance. The Department may revoke coverage of this permit if it is not constructed in compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit. Any act of noncompliance with this permit constitutes a permit violation and is grounds for enforcement action.
11. Construction Timing. Once waterway work below the OHWM begins, all construction activities in those waterways must be continuous until the work is completed, and the site is stabilized. Once wetland work begins, all construction activities in those wetlands must be continuous to the extent practicable. During periods of inactivity in wetlands, the site must be stabilized until the work is resumed and completed.
12. Construction. No other area of the wetland or waterway may be disturbed beyond the area designated in the submitted plans.
13. Project Completion. Within one week after completing the regulated activity, you shall submit to the Department a statement certifying the project complies with all the terms

and conditions of this permit, and photographs of the activities authorized by this permit. This statement must reference the Department-issued docket number and be submitted to the Department staff member that authorized coverage.

14. Proper Maintenance. You must maintain the activity authorized by WDNR-GP6-2026 in good condition and in conformance with the terms and conditions of this permit using best management practices. Any structure or fill authorized shall be properly maintained to ensure no additional impacts to the remaining wetlands and waterways.

15. Site Access. Upon reasonable notice, you shall allow access to the site to any Department employee who is inspecting the project's construction, operation, maintenance or permit compliance with the terms and conditions of WDNR-GP6-2026 and applicable laws.

16. Erosion and Siltation Controls. The project site shall implement erosion and sediment control measures that adequately control or prevent erosion and prevent damage to wetlands as outlined in subch. III of ch. NR 151, Wis. Adm. Code. The technical standards to implement these performance standards can be found at https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/, keyword “stormwater technical standards”. Any area where topsoil is exposed during the project should be immediately seeded and mulched to stabilize disturbed areas and prevent soils from being eroded and washed into the waterway.

17. Equipment Use. The equipment used in waterways and wetlands must be low ground weight equipment as specified by the manufacturer specifications.

18. Wetland Protection. You shall not store any vegetation, material, or equipment in wetlands unless authorized to do so through an approved project design. The project will be constructed in a manner that will maintain wetland hydrology in the remaining wetland complex, if applicable.

19. Invasive Species. All project equipment shall be decontaminated for removal of invasive species prior to and after each use on the project site by following the most recent Department approved washing and disinfection protocols and Department approved best management practices to avoid the spread of invasive species as outlined in ch. NR 40, Wis. Adm. Code. These protocols and practices along with a factsheet for equipment operators can be found at https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/, keyword “invasive species BMPs”.

20. Federal and State Threatened and Endangered Species. WDNR-GP6-2026 does not affect the Department’s responsibility to ensure that all authorizations comply with Section 7 of the Federal Endangered Species Act, s. 29.604, Wis. Stats., and applicable state laws. No Department authorization under this permit will be granted for projects found not to comply with these acts/laws. No activity is authorized which is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species or a species proposed for such designation, as identified under the Federal Endangered Species Act and/or state law or which is likely to destroy or adversely modify the critical habitat of a species as identified under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

21. Special Concern Species. If the Wisconsin National Heritage Inventory lists a known special concern species to be present in the project area you will take reasonable action

to prevent significant adverse impacts or to enhance the habitat for the species of concern.

22. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources. WDNR-GP6-2026 does not affect the Department's responsibility to ensure that all authorizations comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and s. 44.40, Wis. Stats. No Department authorization under this permit will be granted for projects found not to comply with these acts/laws. Information on the location and existence of historic resources can be obtained from the State Historic Preservation Office and the National Register of Historic Places. If cultural, archaeological, or historical resources are unearthed during activities authorized by this permit, work must be stopped immediately, and the State Historic Preservation Officer must be contacted for further instruction.

**23.** Preventive Measures. Measures must be adopted to prevent potential pollutants from entering a wetland or waterbody. Construction materials and debris, including fuels, oil, and other liquid substances, will not be stored in the construction area in a manner that would allow them to enter a wetland or waterbody as a result of spillage, natural runoff, or flooding. **If a spill of any potential pollutant should occur, it is the responsibility of the permittee to remove such material, to minimize any contamination resulting from this spill, and to immediately notify the State Duty Officer at 1-800-943-0003.**

24. Suitable Fill Material. All fill authorized under this permit must consist of clean suitable soil, as defined by s. NR 500.03(214), Wis. Adm. Code, free from hazardous substances as defined by s. 289.01(11), Wis. Stats., and free from solid waste as defined by s. 289.01(33), Wis. Stats.

25. Standard for Coverage. Wetland impacts from the project will cause only minimal adverse environmental impacts as determined by the Department.

26. Transfers. Coverage under this permit is transferable to any person upon prior written approval of the transfer by the Department.

27. Reevaluation of Decision. The Department may suspend or revoke authorization of any previously authorized activity and may take enforcement action if the following occur:

    a. The applicant fails to comply with the terms and conditions of WDNR-GP6-2026.

    b. The information provided by the applicant in support of the permit application proves to have been false, incomplete, or inaccurate.

## SECTION 5. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Department and the applicant have completed all procedural requirements, and projects that meet the eligibility criteria and conditions and are granted coverage under this general permit will comply with all applicable requirements of WDNR-GP6-2026, s. 30, Wis. Stats, and chs. NR 102, 103, 150, 299, and 300, Wis. Adm. Code.
2. The Department has determined that the issuance of this general permit, with conditions, will not injure public rights or interests, cause environmental pollution as defined in s. 299.01(4), Wis. Stats., or result in material injury to the rights of any riparian owner.
3. The Department has determined that activities subject to this permit, with conditions, will

cause only minimal adverse environmental impacts, will not materially interfere with navigation, and will not have an adverse impact on the riparian property rights of adjacent riparian owners.

4. The Department has determined pursuant to water quality standards under ch. NR 102, Wis. Adm. Code, that projects that meet the eligibility criteria and conditions and are granted coverage under this general permit individually and cumulatively will only result in minimal adverse environmental effects.
5. Pursuant to s. NR 299.04(1), Wis. Adm. Code, the Department has reasonable assurance that projects that meet the eligibility criteria and conditions and are granted coverage under this general permit will meet all applicable water quality standards.
6. The Department and the applicant have completed all procedural requirements, and projects that meet the eligibility criteria and conditions and are granted coverage under this general permit will comply with all applicable requirements of WDNR-GP6-2026, s. 30, Wis. Stats, and chs. NR 102, 103, 150, 299, and 300, Wis. Adm. Code.
7. The Department has determined pursuant to water quality standards under chs NR 102 and NR 103 Wis. Adm. Code, and s. 30.206(ag), Wis. Stats., that projects that meet the eligibility criteria and conditions and are granted coverage under this general permit individually and cumulatively will only result in minimal adverse environmental effects.
8. The Department has determined that the issuance of this general permit, with conditions, will not injure public rights or interests, cause environmental pollution as defined in s. 299.01(4), Wis. Stats., or result in material injury to the rights of any riparian owner.
9. The Department has determined that activities subject to this permit, with conditions, will cause only minimal adverse environmental impacts, will not materially interfere with navigation, and will not have an adverse impact on the riparian property rights of adjacent riparian owners.
10. Pursuant to s. NR 299.04(1), Wis. Adm. Code, the Department has reasonable assurance that projects that meet the eligibility criteria and conditions and are granted coverage under this general permit will meet all applicable water quality standards.

## SECTION 6. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Department has authority under ss. 30.12 and 30.206, Wis. Stats., to issue this general permit.
2. The Department has determined that issuance of this general permit is a prior compliance action under s. NR 150.20(3)(b), Wis. Adm. Code, based on the Environmental Analysis and Environmental Impact Statements prepared previously for statewide general permits. The Department has determined that on that basis we have complied with chs. NR 102 and 103, Wis. Adm. Code, and s. 1.11, Wis. Stats.

## SECTION 7. DEFINITION OF TERMS

For the purposes of this general permit, you accept the following definitions:

1. “Affect wetlands" includes direct impacts and secondary impacts to wetlands. Direct impacts to wetlands are temporary or permanent placement of dredged or fill material into the wetland. Secondary impacts mean impacts associated with any adverse impact on wetland functions such as watershed hydrology (e.g., segmenting a wetland complex, severing a portion of a complex, reducing flood capacity, etc.).
2. "Area of special natural resource interest" means only the areas listed in s. 30.01 (1am), Wis. Stats., and identified by the Department in s. NR 1.05, Wis. Adm. Code.

   **Note:** "Area of special natural resource interest" means any of the following:

   a. A State Natural Area designated or dedicated under ss. 23.27 to 23.29, Wis. Stats., and shown on a map published on the Department's Internet site.

   b. A surface water identified as a trout stream by the Department in s. NR 1.02(7), Wis. Adm. Code, and shown on a map published on the Department's Internet site.

   c. A surface water identified as an outstanding or exceptional resource water under s. 281.15, Wis. Stats., and shown on a map published on the Department's Internet site.

   d. A body of water designated as a wild rice water under a written agreement between the Department and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission and shown on a map published on the Department's Internet site.

   e. A body of water in a wetland along Lake Michigan or Lake Superior that the Department has identified as an ecologically significant coastal wetland and shown on a map published on the Department's Internet site.

   f. A river that is included in the national wild and scenic rivers system or designated as a wild river under s. 30.26, Wis. Stats., and shown on a map published on the Department's Internet site.

   g. The portion of a body of water that contains a sensitive area and shown on a map published on the Department's Internet site.

   h. A unique and significant wetland specified by the Department in a special wetland inventory study or a special area management plan and shown on a map published on the Department's website.

   i. An area that possesses significant scientific value as identified by the Department in s. NR 1.05, Wis. Adm. Code.
3. “Associated feature” of an impoundment means connected surface water to the impoundment that is affected by the artificially raised water level such as individual lake basins, back bays and channels.
4. "Bridge" means any private or public structure except municipal highway bridges constructed in or over a navigable waterway to provide a walkway or roadway for

pedestrians, animals, or vehicles, and includes pipe arches and culverts.

5. "Channel" means a natural or artificial water course with defined bed and banks to confine and conduct the normal flow of water.
6. "Complete application package" means a completed and signed application, the information specified in Section 2 of this permit, and any other information which can reasonably be required from an applicant that the Department needs to make a decision.
7. "Contaminated sediments" has the meaning specified in the *Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System* (WPDES) general permit to discharge carriage and/or interstitial water from dredging operations. (WPDES Permit No. WI-0046558-06-0).
8. "Dam" means any artificial barrier in or across a watercourse which has the primary purpose of impounding or diverting water. A dam includes all appurtenant works, such as a dike, canal or powerhouse.
9. "Department" means the Department of Natural Resources.
10. "De minimis" activity means the dredging of less than 2 cubic yards in a calendar year from a specific waterbody or disturbance of bottom material during the manual removal of aquatic plants that meet the requirements of ch. NR 109.06(2), Wis. Adm. Code.
11. "Dredged material" means any material removed from the bed of a navigable waterway by dredging. The bed of a navigable waterway extends landward to the OHWM.
12. "Dredging" means any part of the process of the removal or disturbance of material from the bed of a navigable waterway, transport of the material to a disposal, rehandling or treatment facility; treatment of the material; discharge of carriage or interstitial water; and disposal of the material. For the purposes of s. 30, Wis. Stats., dredging does not include "de minimis" activities.
13. "Fish Habitat Structure" means an artificially constructed structure composed of biological or inert materials designed specifically for the purpose of providing habitat for fish.
14. "Fill material" has the meaning given in 33 CFR 323.2(e), and means material placed in wetlands where the material has the effect of replacing any portion of a wetland with dry land; or changing the surface elevation of any wetland. Examples of such fill material include, but are not limited to rock, sand, soil, clay, plastics, construction debris, wood chips, overburden from mining or other excavation activities, and materials used to create any structure or infrastructure in a wetland. The term fill material does not include trash or garbage.
15. "Floodplain" has the meaning in ch. NR 116, Wis. Adm. Code, which means the land which has been or may be hereafter covered by flood water during the regional flood.

    **Note:** Information for floodplain regulations and ordinances is available online at https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/, keywords "floodplain regulations".

16. “Flowage” - see definition for “human-made impoundment” below.
17. “Hazardous substance” has the meaning specified in s. 292.01 (5), Wis. Stats.
18. “Human-made impoundment” has the meaning of a lake with artificially raised water levels created by a human-made dam or structure on a stream or river. Lake includes lakes, reservoirs, flowages, or millponds listed in the most current version of the Wisconsin Lakes, Publ-FH800.
19. "Impacts to wetlands" includes temporary or permanent conversion of a wetland.
20. "Inert materials" means those materials that slowly degrade, such as chemically treated wood, stone, stainless and galvanized steel, plastics, and synthetic polymers.
21. “Inland waters” has the meaning given in s. 29.001(45), Wis. Stats.
22. “Invasive plants” are non-native or native plant species that invade natural plant communities and wild areas replacing desirable native vegetation. For a listing of common invasive plants found in Wisconsin visit https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/, keyword “invasive plants”.
23. "Line of navigation" means the depth contour where the water is 3 feet deep at its maximum depth based on the normal summertime low levels on the waterway or summer minimum levels where established by Department order.

    **Note:** Where a municipality has adopted an ordinance establishing a municipal pierhead line authorized under Wis. Stats. s. 30.13, Wis. Stats., the line of navigation is the municipal pierhead line.

24. "Navigable waterway" means any body of water with a defined bed and banks that is navigable under Wisconsin law. In Wisconsin a body of water is navigable if it is capable of floating on a regularly recurring basis the lightest boat or skiff used for recreation or any other purpose. This incorporates the definition at s. 30.01(4m), Wis. Stats., and current case law, which requires a watercourse to have a bed and banks, *Hoyt v. City of Hudson,* 27 Wis. 656 (1871), and requires a navigable waterway to float on a regularly recurring basis the lightest boat or skiff, *DeGayner* & Co., *Inc. v. DNR,* 70 Wis. 2d 936 (1975); *Village of Menomonee Falls v. DNR,* 140 Wis. 2d 579 (Ct. App. 1987).
25. "Ordinary high-water mark" (OHWM) means the point on the banks or shore up to which the presence and action of water is so continuous as to leave a distinct mark either by erosion, destruction of terrestrial vegetation or other easily recognizable characteristic.
26. "Public rights feature" has the meaning in s. NR 1.06, Wis. Adm. Code, and includes any of the following:
    a. Fish and wildlife habitat, including specific sites necessary for breeding, nesting, nursery and feeding. Physical features constituting fish and wildlife habitat include stands of aquatic plants; riffles and pools in streams; undercut

banks with overhanging vegetation or that are vegetated *above;* areas of lake or streambed where fish nests are visible; large woody cover.

b. Physical features of lakes and streams that ensure protection of water quality. Physical features that protect water quality include stands of aquatic plants (that protect against erosion and so minimize sedimentation), natural streambed features such as riffles or boulders (that cause turbulent stream flow and so provide aeration).

c. Reaches of bank, shore or bed that is predominantly natural in appearance (not man-made or artificial) or that screen man-made or artificial features. Reaches include those with stands of vegetation that include intermixed trees, shrubs and grasses; stands of mature pines or other conifer species; bog fringe; bluffs rising from the water's edge; beds of emergent plants such as wild rice, wild celery, reeds, arrowhead.

d. Navigation thoroughfares or areas traditionally used for navigation during recreational boating, angling, hunting or enjoyment of natural scenic beauty. Physical features indicative of navigation thoroughfares includes shallow water areas typically used by wading anglers or areas frequently occupied by regularly repeated public uses such as water shows.

27. "Riparian" means an owner of land abutting a navigable waterway.

28. “Riparian Zone” has the meaning given in ss. 30.01(5r) and 30.20(3)(a)3., Wis. Stats.

29. “Root wad” structures are comprised of a natural tree trunk with the root ball or root mass intact.

30. "Stabilize" means the process of making a site steadfast or firm, minimizing soil movement using practices such as mulching and seeding, sodding, landscaping, paving, graveling, or other appropriate measures.

31. “Unconsolidated sediment” is defined as loose materials ranging in size from clay and silt to sand and muck. Unconsolidated sediment does not include bedrock, cobble, rock, or gravel.

32. “Watercourse” means a running stream of water; a natural stream fed from permanent or natural sources, including rivers, creeks, runs and rivulets. There must be a stream, usually flowing in a particular direction, though it need not flow continuously. It may sometimes be dry. It must flow in a definite channel, having a bed or banks, and usually discharges itself into some other stream or body of water. It must be something more than a mere surface drainage over the entire face of the tract of land, occasioned by unusual freshets or other extraordinary causes.

33. "Watercraft" under s. 30.01(7), Wis. Stats., means any device used and designed for navigation on water.

34. "Wetland" has the meaning in s. 23.24., Wis. Stats., and s. NR 103.02(5), Wis. Adm. Code, and means an area where water is at, near or above the land surface long

enough to be capable of supporting aquatic or hydrophytic vegetation and which has soils indicative of wetland conditions.

35. "Wildlife nesting structure" or "Wildlife Habitat Structure" means any structure or device constructed for the purpose of improving nesting habitat for wildlife, including birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles.